



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Contact: Nghia Nguyen Demovic
Caren Daniels-Meade
916-653-6575

Secretary of State Investigation Results in San Joaquin County **Man Being Charged with Five Felony Counts**

District Attorney Filed Charges Against Tracy Man with Felony Election Fraud

Sacramento – Five felony charges were brought today in San Joaquin County against a man accused of falsifying voter registration cards. If convicted, the accused can face imprisonment and/or pay up to \$10,000 in fines.

Mathew Cross, 20, of Tracy, admittedly forged 35 voter registration cards in 2004 when he was being paid \$5 for each voter he registered. In interviews with investigators, Cross confessed that soliciting citizens to register was hard work and that forging cards increased his commissions.

“Fraud connected to the right to vote is completely unacceptable. My goal is to increase voter registration and participation in California and to be relentless in shutting down election-related fraud,” said Secretary McPherson.

Investigators uncovered Mr. Cross’ illegal activity through Secretary McPherson’s partnership with San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters Deborah Hensch, who referred a group of 54 suspicious voter registrations to the Secretary of State’s Election Fraud Investigation Unit. After completing their investigation, Secretary of State investigators referred the case to the San Joaquin District Attorney’s office for prosecution.

“The cooperation between district attorneys, elections officials and my office is vital to spreading the message that voter fraud will not be tolerated. I want to thank San Joaquin County Registrar Deborah Hensch and District Attorney Jim Willett for their collaboration and assistance on this case,” continued Secretary McPherson.

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